What is claimed is:

1. A lead electrode assembly for use with an implantable cardioverter-defibrillator subcutaneously implanted outside a patient's ribcage between the third and twelfth ribs, wherein the lead electrode assembly comprises an electrode.

2. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode can emit an effective energy for shocking the patient's heart.

3. The lead electrode assembly of claim 2, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 25 J to approximately 50 J.

4. The lead electrode assembly of claim 2, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 50 J to approximately 75 J.

5. The lead electrode assembly of claim 2, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 75 J to approximately 100 J.

6. The lead electrode assembly of claim 2, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 100 J to approximately 125 J.

7. The lead electrode assembly of claim 2, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 125 J to approximately 150 J.

8. The lead electrode assembly of claim 2, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 150 J.

9. The lead electrode assembly of claim 2, wherein the electrode can further receive physiological information from the patient through sensors.

10. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode can receive physiological information from the patient through sensors.

11. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the electrode is non-planar.

12. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is substantially ellipsoidal in shape.

13. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is substantially thumbnail shaped.

14. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is substantially circular in shape.

15. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is substantially square in shape.

16. The lead electrode assembly of claim 15, wherein the electrode comprises rounded corners.

17. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is substantially rectangular in shape.

18. The lead electrode assembly of claim 17, wherein the electrode comprises rounded corners.

19. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is substantially triangular in shape.

20. The lead electrode assembly of claim 19, wherein the electrode comprises rounded corners.

21. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is less than approximately 1000 square millimeters in area.

22. The lead electrode assembly of claim 21, wherein the electrode is between approximately 750 square millimeters to approximately 1000 square millimeters in area.

23. The lead electrode assembly of claim 22, wherein the electrode is between approximately 500 square millimeters to approximately 750 square millimeters in area.

24. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is between approximately 250 square millimeters to approximately 500 square millimeters in area.

25. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is between approximately 100 square millimeters to approximately 250 square millimeters in area.

26. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately in a posterior region of the patient's ribcage.

27. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately in a paraspinal region of the patient.

28. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately in a parascapular region of the patient.

29. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately posterior to a mid axillary line of the patient.

30. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately posterior and lateral to an anterior axillary line of the patient.

31. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein lead electrode assembly further comprises a backing layer coupled to the electrode.

32. The lead electrode assembly of claim 31, wherein the backing layer comprises a polymeric material.

33. The lead electrode assembly of claim 32, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting essentially of a polyurethane, a polyamide, a polyetheretherketone (PEEK), a polyether block amide (PEBA), a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a silicone, and mixtures thereof.

34. The lead electrode assembly of claim 31, wherein the backing layer is substantially planar.

35. The lead electrode assembly of claim 34, wherein the backing layer is substantially parallel to the electrode.

36. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the electrode is covered by a skirt.

37. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a molded cover coupled to the electrode.

38. The lead electrode assembly of claim 37, wherein the molded cover partially covers the electrode

39. The lead electrode assembly of claim 38, wherein the molded cover comprises a skirt that partially covers a bottom surface of the electrode.

40. The lead electrode assembly of claim 37, wherein the molded cover comprises a polymeric material.

41. The lead electrode assembly of claim 40, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting essentially of a polyurethane, a polyamide, a polyetheretherketone (PEEK), a polyether block amide (PEBA), a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a silicone, and mixtures thereof.

42. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode comprises a mesh of metallic material.

43. The lead electrode assembly of claim 42, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

44. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode comprises a metallic material.

45. The lead electrode assembly of claim 44, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

46. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode is substantially planar.

47. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrode comprises a substantially flat sheet of metallic material.

48. The lead electrode assembly of claim 47, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

49. The lead electrode assembly of claim 1, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a lead coupled to the electrode.

50. The lead electrode assembly of claim 49, wherein the lead comprises one or more electrical conductors electrically coupled to the electrode.

51. The lead electrode assembly of claim 50, wherein the lead further comprises an electrically insulating sheath enclosing the one or more electrical conductors.

52. The lead electrode assembly of claim 49, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a connector coupled to the lead.

53. The lead electrode assembly of claim 52, wherein the connector is electrically coupled to the electrode.

54. The lead electrode assembly of claim 49, wherein the lead is between approximately 5 cm and approximately 52 cm in length.

55. The lead electrode assembly of claim 54, wherein the lead is between approximately 5 cm and approximately 30 cm in length.

56. The lead electrode assembly of claim 55, wherein the lead is between approximately 10 cm and approximately 20 cm in length.

57. The lead electrode assembly of claim 54, wherein the lead length is one of a plurality of pre-set lengths.

58. The lead electrode assembly of claim 57, wherein the pre-set lengths vary by approximately 10 cm.

59. The lead electrode assembly of claim 49, wherein the lead has a proximal end and a distal end and wherein the proximal end of the lead is coupled to the electrode.

60. The lead electrode assembly of claim 59, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a lead fastener coupled between the lead and the electrode.

61. An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator for subcutaneous positioning between the third rib and the twelfth rib within a patient, the implantable cardioverter-defibrillator comprising:

a housing;

an electrical circuit located within the housing;

a first electrode coupled to the electrical circuit and located on the housing; and

a lead electrode assembly coupled to the housing, wherein the lead electrode assembly comprises:

a second electrode coupled to the electrical circuit.

62. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode can emit an effective energy for shocking the patient's heart.

63. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 62, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 25 J to approximately 50 J.

64. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 62, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 50 J to approximately 75 J.

65. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 62, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 75 J to approximately 100 J.

66. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 62, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 100 J to approximately 125 J.

67. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 62, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 125 J to approximately 150 J.

68. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 62, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 150 J.

69. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 62, wherein the second electrode can further receive physiological information from the patient through sensors.

70. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode can receive physiological information from the patient through sensors.

71. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein at least a portion of the second electrode is non-planar.

72. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is substantially ellipsoidal in shape.

73. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is substantially thumbnail shaped.

74. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is substantially circular in shape.

75. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is substantially square in shape.

76. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 75, wherein the second electrode comprises rounded corners.

77. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is substantially rectangular in shape.

78. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 77, wherein the second electrode comprises rounded corners.

79. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is substantially triangular in shape.

80. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 79, wherein the second electrode comprises rounded corners.

81. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is less than approximately 1000 square millimeters in area.

82. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 81, wherein the second electrode is between approximately 750 square millimeters to approximately 1000 square millimeters in area.

83. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 82, wherein the second electrode is between approximately

500 square millimeters to approximately 750 square millimeters in area.

84. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is between approximately 250 square millimeters to approximately 500 square millimeters in area.

85. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is between approximately 100 square millimeters to approximately 250 square millimeters in area.

86. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is positioned approximately in a posterior region of the patient's ribcage.

87. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is positioned approximately in a paraspinal region of the patient.

88. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is positioned approximately in a parascapular region of the patient.

89. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is positioned approximately posterior to a mid axillary line of the patient.

90. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is positioned approximately posterior and lateral to an anterior axillary line of the patient.

91. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein lead electrode assembly further comprises a backing layer coupled to the second electrode.

92. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 91, wherein the backing layer comprises a polymeric material.

93. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 92, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting essentially of a polyurethane, a polyamide, a polyetheretherketone (PEEK), a polyether block amide (PEBA), a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a silicone, and mixtures thereof.

94. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 92, wherein the backing layer is substantially planar.

95. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 94, wherein the backing layer is substantially parallel to the second electrode.

96. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein at least a portion of the second electrode is covered by a skirt.

97. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a molded cover coupled to the second electrode.

98. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 97, wherein the molded cover partially covers the second electrode

99. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 98, wherein the molded cover comprises a skirt that partially covers a bottom surface of the second electrode.

100. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 97, wherein the molded cover comprises a polymeric material.

101. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 100, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting essentially of a polyurethane, a polyamide, a polyetheretherketone (PEEK), a polyether block amide (PEBA), a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a silicone, and mixtures thereof.

102. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode comprises a mesh of metallic material.

103. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 102, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

104. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode comprises a metallic material.

105. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 104, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

106. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode is substantially planar.

107. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the second electrode comprises a substantially flat sheet of metallic material.

108. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 107, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

109. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 61, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a lead coupled between the housing and the second electrode.

110. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 109, wherein the lead comprises one or more electrical conductors electrically coupled to the second electrode.

111. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 110, wherein the lead further comprises an electrically insulating sheath enclosing the one or more electrical conductors.

112. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 109, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a connector coupled to the lead.

113. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 112, wherein the connector is electrically coupled to the second electrode.

114. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 109, wherein the lead is between approximately 5 cm and approximately 52 cm in length.

115. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 114, wherein the lead is between approximately 5 cm and approximately 30 cm in length.

116. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 115, wherein the lead is between approximately 10 cm and approximately 20 cm in length.

117. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 114, wherein the lead length is one of a plurality of pre-set lengths.

118. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 117, wherein the pre-set lengths vary by approximately 10 cm.

119. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 109, wherein the lead has a proximal end and a distal end and wherein the proximal end of the lead is coupled to the second electrode.

120. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 119, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a lead fastener coupled between the lead and the second electrode.

121. A lead electrode assembly for subcutaneous implantation in a patient's posterior thorax from an incision in

the skin covering the patient's anterior thorax comprising an electrode.

122. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode can emit an effective energy for shocking the patient's heart.

123. The lead electrode assembly of claim 122, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 25 J to approximately 50 J.

124. The lead electrode assembly of claim 122, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 50 J to approximately 75 J.

125. The lead electrode assembly of claim 122, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 75 J to approximately 100 J.

126. The lead electrode assembly of claim 122, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 100 J to approximately 125 J.

127. The lead electrode assembly of claim 122, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 125 J to approximately 150 J.

128. The lead electrode assembly of claim 122, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 150 J.

129. The lead electrode assembly of claim 122, wherein the electrode can further receive physiological information from the patient through sensors.

130. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode can receive physiological information from the patient through sensors.

131. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein at least a portion of the electrode is non-planar.

132. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is substantially ellipsoidal in shape.

133. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is substantially thumbnail shaped.

134. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is substantially circular in shape.

135. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is substantially square in shape.

136. The lead electrode assembly of claim 135, wherein the electrode comprises rounded corners.

137. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is substantially rectangular in shape.

138. The lead electrode assembly of claim 137, wherein the electrode comprises rounded corners.

139. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is substantially triangular in shape.

140. The lead electrode assembly of claim 139, wherein the electrode comprises rounded corners.

141. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is less than approximately 1000 square millimeters in area.

142. The lead electrode assembly of claim 141, wherein the electrode is between approximately 750 square millimeters to approximately 1000 square millimeters in area.

143. The lead electrode assembly of claim 142, wherein the electrode is between approximately 500 square millimeters to approximately 750 square millimeters in area.

144. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is between approximately 250 square millimeters to approximately 500 square millimeters in area.

145. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is between approximately 100 square millimeters to approximately 250 square millimeters in area.

146. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately in a posterior region of the patient's ribcage.

147. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately in a paraspinal region of the patient.

148. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately in a parascapular region of the patient.

149. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately posterior to a mid axillary line of the patient.

150. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately posterior and lateral to an anterior axillary line of the patient.

151. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein lead electrode assembly further comprises a backing layer coupled to the electrode.

152. The lead electrode assembly of claim 151, wherein the backing layer comprises a polymeric material.

153. The lead electrode assembly of claim 152, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting essentially of a polyurethane, a polyamide, a polyetheretherketone (PEEK), a polyether block amide (PEBA), a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a silicone, and mixtures thereof.

154. The lead electrode assembly of claim 151, wherein the backing layer is substantially planar.

155. The lead electrode assembly of claim 154, wherein the backing layer is substantially parallel to the electrode.

156. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein at least a portion of the electrode is covered by a skirt.

157. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a molded cover coupled to the electrode.

158. The lead electrode assembly of claim 157, wherein the molded cover partially covers the electrode

159. The lead electrode assembly of claim 158, wherein the molded cover comprises a skirt that partially covers a bottom surface of the electrode.

160. The lead electrode assembly of claim 157, wherein the molded cover comprises a polymeric material.

161. The lead electrode assembly of claim 160, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting essentially of a polyurethane, a polyamide, a polyetheretherketone (PEEK), a polyether block amide (PEBA), a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a silicone, and mixtures thereof.

162. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode comprises a mesh of metallic material.

163. The lead electrode assembly of claim 162, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

164. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode comprises a metallic material.

165. The lead electrode assembly of claim 164, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

166. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode is substantially planar.

167. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the electrode comprises a substantially flat sheet of metallic material.

168. The lead electrode assembly of claim 167, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

169. The lead electrode assembly of claim 121, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a lead coupled to the electrode.

170. The lead electrode assembly of claim 169, wherein the lead comprises one or more electrical conductors electrically coupled to the electrode.

171. The lead electrode assembly of claim 170, wherein the lead further comprises an electrically insulating sheath enclosing the one or more electrical conductors.

172. The lead electrode assembly of claim 169, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a connector coupled to the lead.

173. The lead electrode assembly of claim 172, wherein the connector is electrically coupled to the electrode.

174. The lead electrode assembly of claim 169, wherein the lead is between approximately 5 cm and approximately 52 cm in length.

175. The lead electrode assembly of claim 174, wherein the lead is between approximately 5 cm and approximately 30 cm in length.

176. The lead electrode assembly of claim 175, wherein the lead is between approximately 10 cm and approximately 20 cm in length.

177. The lead electrode assembly of claim 174, wherein the lead length is one of a plurality of pre-set lengths.

178. The lead electrode assembly of claim 177, wherein the pre-set lengths vary by approximately 10 cm.

179. The lead electrode assembly of claim 169, wherein the lead has a proximal end and a distal end and wherein the proximal end of the lead is coupled to the electrode.

180. The lead electrode assembly of claim 179, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a lead fastener coupled between the lead and the electrode.

181. An implantable cardioverter-defibrillator for subcutaneous positioning between the third rib and the twelfth rib within a patient, the implantable cardioverter-defibrillator comprising:

a housing; and

a lead electrode assembly coupled to the housing, wherein the lead electrode assembly comprises:

an electrode.

182. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode can emit an effective energy for shocking the patient's heart.

183. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 182, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 25 J to approximately 50 J.

184. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 182, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 50 J to approximately 75 J.

185. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 182, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 75 J to approximately 100 J.

186. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 182, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 100 J to approximately 125 J.

187. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 182, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 125 J to approximately 150 J.

188. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 182, wherein the effective energy for shocking the patient's heart is approximately 150 J.

189. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 182, wherein the electrode can further receive physiological information from the patient through sensors.

190. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode can receive physiological information from the patient through sensors.

191. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein at least a portion of the electrode is non-planar.

192. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is substantially ellipsoidal in shape.

193. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is substantially thumbnail shaped.

194. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is substantially circular in shape.

195. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is substantially square in shape.

196. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 195, wherein the electrode comprises rounded corners.

197. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is substantially rectangular in shape.

198. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 197, wherein the electrode comprises rounded corners.

199. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is substantially triangular in shape.

200. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 199, wherein the electrode comprises rounded corners.

201. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is less than approximately 1000 square millimeters in area.

202. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 201, wherein the electrode is between approximately 750 square millimeters to approximately 1000 square millimeters in area.

203. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 202, wherein the electrode is between approximately 500 square millimeters to approximately 750 square millimeters in area.

204. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is between approximately 250

square millimeters to approximately 500 square millimeters in area.

205. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is between approximately 100 square millimeters to approximately 250 square millimeters in area.

206. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately in a posterior region of the patient's ribcage.

207. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately in a paraspinal region of the patient.

208. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately in a parascapular region of the patient.

209. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately posterior to a mid axillary line of the patient.

210. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is positioned approximately posterior and lateral to an anterior axillary line of the patient.

211. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein lead electrode assembly further comprises a backing layer coupled to the electrode.

212. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 211, wherein the backing layer comprises a polymeric material.

213. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 212, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting essentially of a polyurethane, a polyamide, a polyetheretherketone (PEEK), a polyether block amide (PEBA), a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a silicone, and mixtures thereof.

214. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 211, wherein the backing layer is substantially planar.

215. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 214, wherein the backing layer is substantially parallel to the electrode.

216. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein at least a portion of the electrode is covered by a skirt.

217. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a molded cover coupled to the electrode.

218. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 217, wherein the molded cover partially covers the electrode

219. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 218, wherein the molded cover comprises a skirt that partially covers a bottom surface of the electrode.

220. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 217, wherein the molded cover comprises a polymeric material.

221. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 220, wherein the polymeric material is selected from the group consisting essentially of a polyurethane, a polyamide, a polyetheretherketone (PEEK), a polyether block amide (PEBA), a polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), a silicone, and mixtures thereof.

222. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode comprises a mesh of metallic material.

223. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 222, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

224. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode comprises a metallic material.

225. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 224, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

226. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode is substantially planar.

227. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the electrode comprises a substantially flat sheet of metallic material.

228. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 227, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting essentially of titanium, nickel alloys, stainless steel alloys, platinum, platinum iridium, and mixtures thereof.

229. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 181, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a lead coupled between the electrode and the housing.

230. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 229, wherein the lead comprises one or more electrical conductors electrically coupled to the electrode.

231. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 230, wherein the lead further comprises an electrically insulating sheath enclosing the one or more electrical conductors.

232. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 229, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a connector coupled to the lead.

233. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 232, wherein the connector is electrically coupled to the electrode.

234. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 229, wherein the lead is between approximately 5 cm and approximately 52 cm in length.

235. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 234, wherein the lead is between approximately 5 cm and approximately 30 cm in length.

236. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 235, wherein the lead is between approximately 10 cm and approximately 20 cm in length.

237. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 234, wherein the lead length is one of a plurality of pre-set lengths.

238. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 237, wherein the pre-set lengths vary by approximately 10 cm.

239. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 229, wherein the lead has a proximal end and a distal end and wherein the proximal end of the lead is coupled to the electrode.

240. The implantable cardioverter-defibrillator of claim 239, wherein the lead electrode assembly further comprises a lead fastener coupled between the lead and the electrode.